



# WGU Missouri

Dr. Angie Besendorfer, Chancellor WGU Missouri



Learn more. Become more. *Online.*

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# WGU Today

Western Governors University, an regionally accredited university with more than 57,000 students and 45,000 graduates from all 50 states.

WGU is

- Private **Not-for-Profit**
- Self-Sustaining on tuition
- No need for ongoing state subsidy





# WGU Timeline

- 1995 – Idea born at bipartisan meeting of the Western Governors Association
- 1996 – WGU was chartered
- 1997 – WGU was incorporated as a private, nonprofit university
- 1999 – WGU began accepting students
- 2003 – 1,000 enrolled students
- 2008 – 10,000 students
- 2015 – 57,000 Students and 45,000 alumni



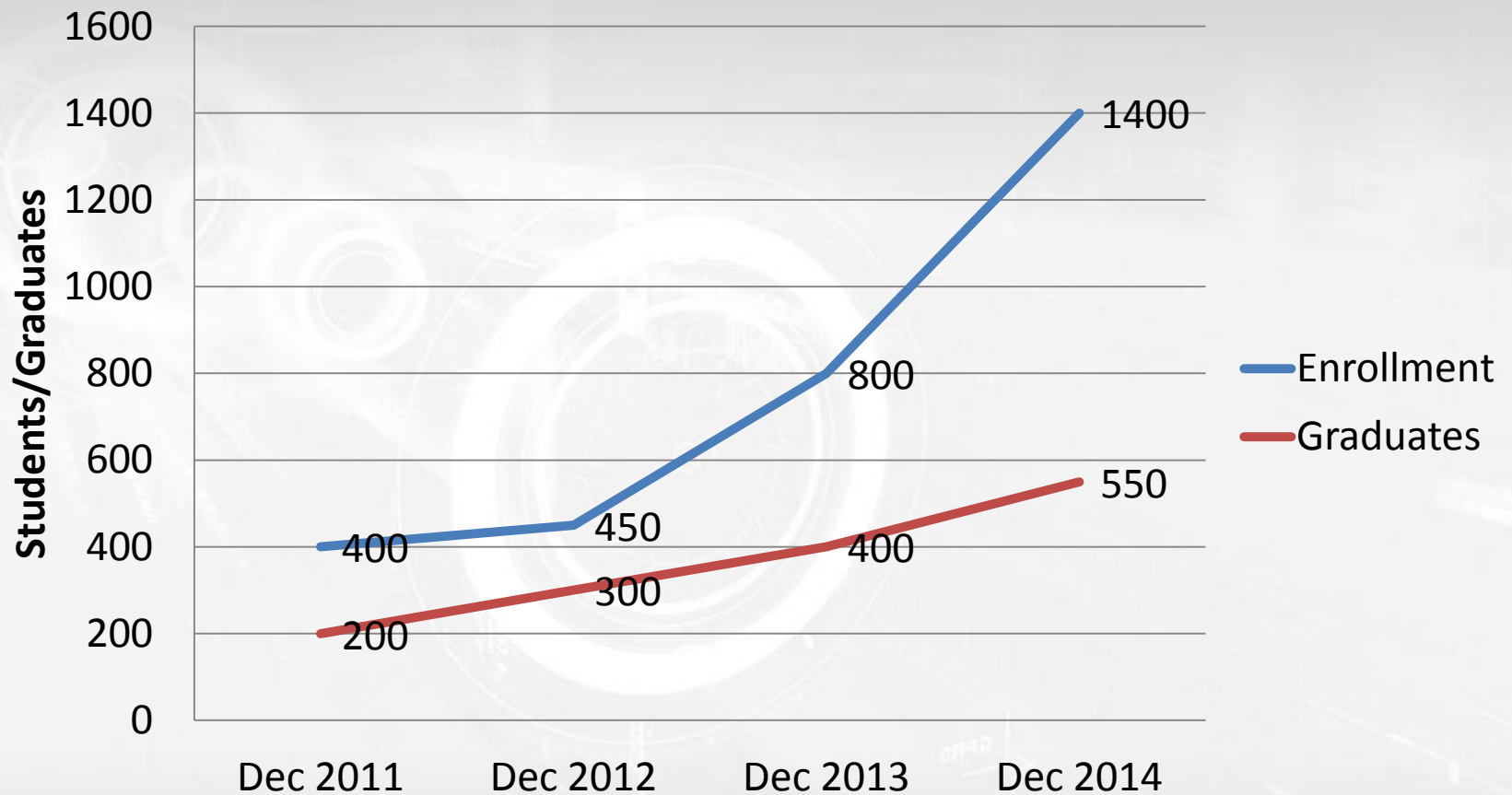
# WGU Missouri

- Created in February 2013 by executive order of Governor Nixon



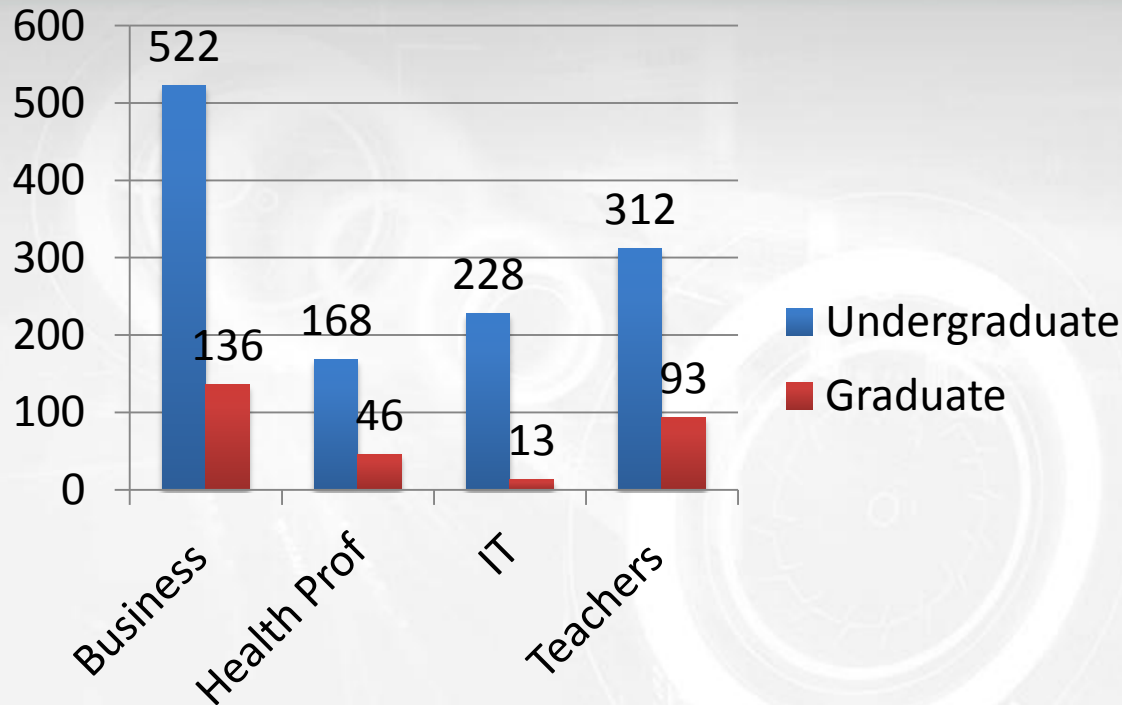


# Enrollment Growth





# March 2015 Data



	Feb 2013	March 2015
Graduates	293	620

## March Enrollment

2014: 911

2015: 1515

**Up by 66%**

## Student Profile:

Average age is 36.4

73% – Nontraditional

Rural – 25%

First-Generation – 42%

Employed Full-Time – 73%



# Guiding Principles

- Shorter Time to Degree
- Lower Costs for Students
- Higher Levels of Student Support
- Personalized and Empowered Learning Experience
- Excellent Results



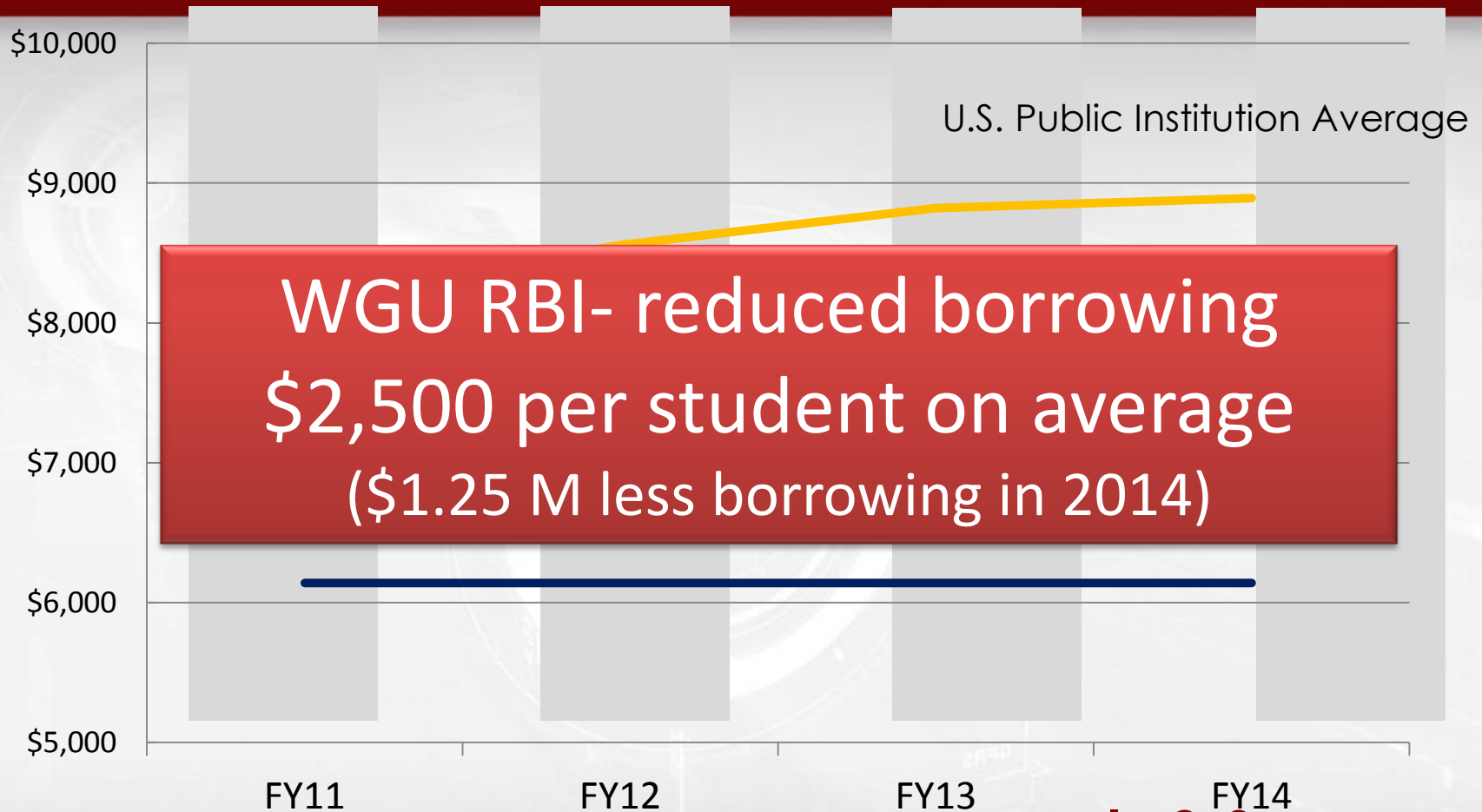
# Affordable

- Flat-rate tuition at WGU Missouri is about \$3,000 per 6-month term for unlimited courses
- In 2014, WGU awarded **\$2.5 million** in need-based scholarships
- Loan default rate of 6.6% compared to 13.7% nationally





Our flat-rate tuition hasn't increased in **8** years



WGU RBI- reduced borrowing  
\$2,500 per student on average  
(\$1.25 M less borrowing in 2014)

Students can earn *all* their tuition back in **only 2-3 years**



# Competency-Based Education

# Measuring Learning

# Not

# Seat Time



# Competency-Based Education



- Students **demonstrate their knowledge** rather than spending time in a classroom.
- Empowers students to advance quickly through what they already know so they can focus on what they still need to learn.
- Provides consistency among grads
- On average, students earn a bachelors degree in **2 years and 4 months**.



# Student-Centered

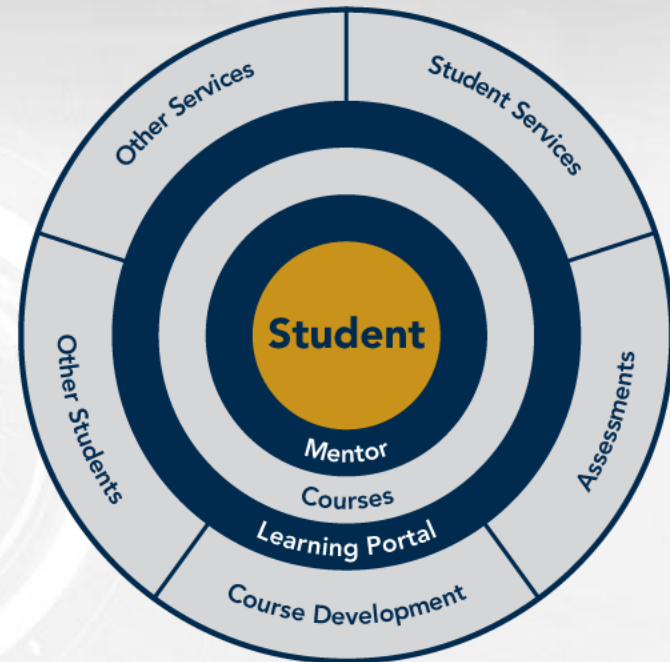
- Variety of learning resources to fit different learning styles
- Move at your own pace
- Student determines due dates
- Use data analytics to predict success and DISRUPT FAILURE
  - Provide to faculty and students (red, yellow, green)
  - Predictions of graduation



# Student-Centered



**Traditional Model**



**WGU's Model**



# Traditional Faculty Model

**Develop course curricula**



**Choose course materials**



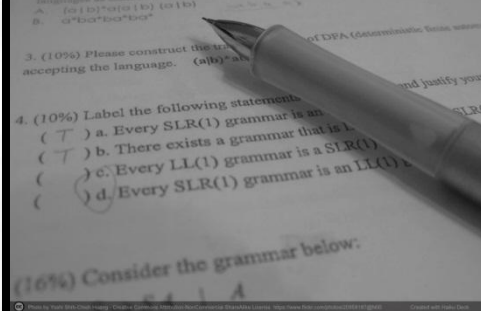
**Deliver lectures**



**Interact with students**



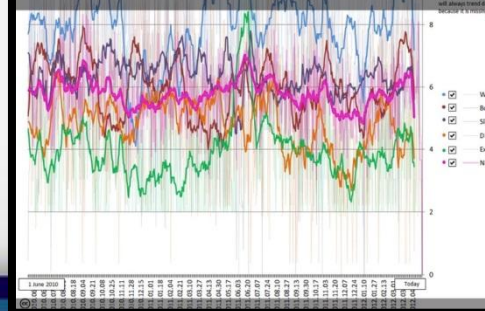
**Design assignments and assessments**



**Evaluate student performance**



**Track student success**



**Mentor students**



**Provide academic advising**





# WGU's Disaggregated Model

**Program  
Development**

**Course  
Development**

**Assessment  
Development**

**Assessment Grading**

**Student Mentors**

**Course Mentors**



# WGU's Disaggregated Model



**Online  
learning  
doesn't  
have to be  
alone**



# Evaluation

- The only area of part-time faculty
- Blind evaluation of competency
- Every student gets a camera for proctored tests
  - Recorded and saved for 10 years
- Utilize a variety of assessments and assessment types
- Students either “pass” or “not yet”
- Use learning analytics to evaluate learning resources and assessments



# Excellent Student Results

- 94% satisfactory academic progress
- 7-month retention 83%
- 13-month retention 77%
- 3-year graduation rate > 6 year graduation rate
- 2014 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
  - Quality of interactions with faculty—20% higher
  - Time spent per week on studies—13% higher



# Excellent Graduate Results

- 92% employed, 86% in degree field, 25% pursuing additional education
- Increased income 1-3 years after graduation is \$10,400
  - Compared to \$6,400 nationally
- Harris Poll on Employer Satisfaction
  - 96% said that their WGU graduates were prepared for their jobs
    - 89% said they were very well or extremely well prepared
- WGU alumni are nearly twice as likely (1.84x) as national graduates to be emotionally attached to their alma mater (Gallup)
- WGU graduates are more likely to be engaged employees- 15% higher than the national average (Gallup)



# Thank You

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